

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 SAJ-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 /076 W

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P 161500Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7000

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 411

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CY TU GR UK

SUBJECT: BITSIOS' STATEMENT ON TURKISH CYPRIOT REFUGEES

1. AT 1300 GREEK NATIONAL RADIO RELEASED STATEMENT BY FONMIN BITSIOS ON BRITISH DECISION TO ALLOW EXIT OF TURK CYPRIOT REFUGEES FROM SBA. INITIAL NEWS OF THIS DECISION WAS THROUGH BRIEF RADIO NEWS REPORT JAN 15 WHICH STIMULATED ONLY MEDIUM INTENSITY PRESS INTEREST JAN 16 AND NO EDITORIALS. BITSIOS' STATEMENT WILL PROBABLY NOW TRIGGER DEEPER PUBLIC INTEREST, AND CRITICAL ONE, TO THIS DEVELOPMENT.

2. BITSIOS SAID: "I EXPRESS MY SORROW ABOUT THE DECISION REACHED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO YIELD TO THE TURKISH PRESSURE AND ALLOW THE DEPARTURE FOR TURKEY AND FROM THERE TO THE TURKISH OCCUPATION ZONE IN CYPRUS OF THE TURK CYPRIOTS WHO TOOK REFUGE AT THE BRITISH BASE. HOWEVER, IT WAS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ITSELF WHICH IN THE BEGINNING STATED THAT THE QUESTION OF THE REFUGEES IN ITS ENTIRETY WAS A POLITICAL QUESTION AND SHOULD BE DISCUSSED IN NICOSIA BY MESSRS. CLERIDES AND DENKTASH.

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IN COMPLETE CONTRADICTION TO THE ABOVE STAND, THE BRITISH

GOVERNMENT MADE ITS DECISION KNOWN EXACTLY ON THE DAY ON WHICH TALKS WERE BEGUN IN NICOSIA ON SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL MATTERS. THE PROJECTION OF HUMANITARIAN REASONS-- WHICH APPLY MUCH MORE TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE--DOES NOT JUSTIFY, ANYWAY, THE HASTE WITH WHICH THE BRITISH DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE CIRCUMSTANCES, I CANNOT BUT ASCERTAIN THAT THIS DECISION--REACHED IN SPITE OF THE OPPOSITE OPINION OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT--HAS A POLITICAL ASPECT TOO, DELIBERATE OR NOT, WHICH I AM OBLIGED TO POINT OUT."

KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 16 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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